

MEANDERINGS

Recognition beyond the fields of home

June 1995

After years in storage, Christensen's 'Mormon Panorama' scroll wins renewed admiration.

Editor's note: The following is last in a series of columns on the life of pioneer-Utah artist C.C.A. Christensen.

By Dennis Smith

Around 1960, Carl Carmer, twice winner of the Literary Guild Award and former president of the Poetry Society of America, was in Utah doing research for a book he was writing. It was then that he first saw the paintings from C.C.A. Christensen's "Mormon Panorama," tucked into a storage area at Brigham Young University, where they had been

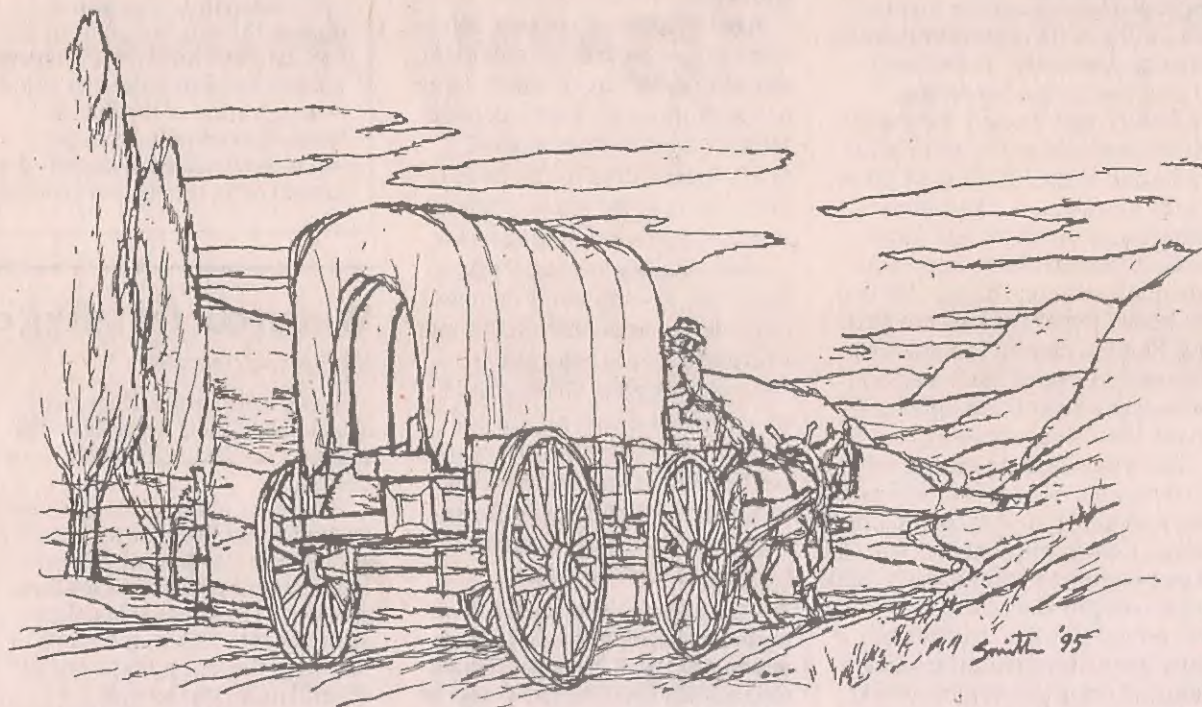
stored for a decade through a vaguely defined bequest from the artist's family.

From the moment he saw them he was taken with the massive

paintings, which were stitched together on a long scroll which, when fully extended, stretched 175 feet in length. Most local ex-

perts had been prompted to dismiss the paintings, executed in a primitive manner, not as serious

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DENNIS SMITH

Artist's work found in several collections

For those interested in learning more about C.C.A. Christensen, his work can be found in several collections.

The LDS Museum of Church History and Art has several of his paintings and has published a catalog of his work, available at the museum, from which much of my own information has been gleaned.

Christensen's famous "Mormon Panorama" paintings are currently on display at the Museum of Art at Brigham Young University, together with an audio tour of his life and work.

The Springville Museum of Art has a couple of his more delicate pieces, which include a wonderful little study of handcarts crossing the Plains — ask the curator, Vern Swanson, where to find them.

In the entrance area of the

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ARTIST

Continued from C1

Manti Temple there is a fairly large painting of the temple as it looked soon after construction (with a landscape of terraces that never materialized in reality), together with a companion painting of the hill before the temple was built. It shows an Indian village on the site.

My favorite C.C.A. Christensen, though, is a painting in the Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum in Salt Lake City titled "Immigration of the Saints." Painted, no doubt, from personal impressions, it depicts the arrival of an immigrant group in

the 1860s. In describing it, LDS Church Museum curator Richard Oman is not exaggerating when he says that "... it breathes warmth and human affection reminiscent of Giotto's masterpiece, the greeting between Joachim and Anna at the gates of Jerusalem, part of the mural in the Arena Chapel in Padua, Italy."

Be sure to look closely for painting at the Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum, as it is tucked in a seldom-visited northwest corner room, away from where most visitors explore. You might even ask at the front desk for help. It is a jewel worth the search.

— Dennis Smith

Omni Ernest Bamberger Memorial Foundation are the people who came through for us," she said.

Velardi is excited about the animal-assisted therapy. "We work with families with alcohol or drug dependence. Addiction is a family disease. Children can talk to a pet, their feelings are evoked more easily by a pet," she said.

Lana Davis, who along with dog trainer Paulette Bethel founded the Good Shepherd Association, said, "We're getting calls every day, but we need volunteers. We also need funding. It's not as easy as saying to a volunteer, 'You've got a pet, here's the place to go to.'"

Volunteers attend two days of training from the Delta Society Pet Partners, with whom the Good Shepherd Association is affiliated. Pet Partners is a nationwide program that provides health and behavior guidelines for people/pet teams and also provides insurance to teams that successfully complete its skills and aptitude tests and volunteer training.

On July 15 and 16, new volun-

teers will be trained. The foundation covers all the major issues. We provide hands-on training and a team leader or mentor who will go with new volunteers on their assignments," Bethel said.

So what are the benefits in volunteering for Good Shepherd? At the conclusion of a hectic hour and a half at the Children's Center, Cindy Starley said, "My animals bring me so much joy and happiness. It's wonderful to know you can make someone happy. My dog Bo knows that these kids are hurting. She's so careful around them. The minute one of them makes a noise, she's right there looking at them, like 'What can I do?'"

Can a dog be that perceptive? You may have to see it to believe it, but watching four dogs at the Children's Center will convince you. As it gets closer to bedtime, each child picks a dog to 'tuck them in.' "Let me get my blankie," a little one says. Soon, three children scoot inside and bring beloved hand-tied quilts and spread them out by Megan, who thinks she is a Rottweiler but is really a sweet and intuitive friend.

dana goes on, it's time to meet the children.

Josie Woodhead not only volunteers at the Children's Center but also at Conner Street, where some of the children are deaf and blind. Middy, a mostly black spaniel, thrills the children by climbing five metal stairs to the slippery slide and then fearlessly sliding down.

Cindy Starley has two therapy dogs. Her 17-month-old shepherd, Cheyenne, was taken to visit a man who had a severe head injury. "She was wiggling all over and I was terrified she would rip out IV's. But she knew he was trying to pet her. When I moved her closer to him, she calmed down. These dogs have the ability to know if people are hurting inside."

The Good Shepherd Association will begin training for pet-assisted therapy on July 15-16. Those interested can call 253-1900. A brochure about the program will be mailed and volunteers can register for training. The nonprofit organization welcomes donations.

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Watch out for falling objects in outer space

San Francisco Examiner

Tomorrow's Buck Rogerses should keep their heads low: The heavens are fast filling with "space debris."

For years, space scientists have fretted about the growing litter problem in Earth orbit. We've launched thousands of satellites, spacecraft and rocket boosters since the late 1950s, and much of it is still up there, zipping along at several miles per second.

"A piece of debris about the size and weight of a softball can shatter a satellite if it hits the right spot," says a new study, "Orbital Debris," published this month by the National Academy of Sciences.

And what if that "softball" hits NASA's planned space station? If

report.

Worse, most debris is invisible on radar. "In geostationary orbit 35,000 kilometers (23,000 miles) above the Earth — a particularly valuable orbit occupied by many communication and weather satellites — only objects larger than one meter (3 feet) across can be tracked and cataloged (by radar)."

For more scary details, those with computer access to the World Wide Web can call up a summary of the academy report at this Web address: <http://www.nas.edu>.

—Keay Davidson

ton slacks may or

should be taken to a reputable dry

'Hurricane House' puts

THE DESIGN